Under this Emblem

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ARC 1629
Rev. May 1949

WELLCOME
LIBRARY
P
9399
22502623710

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NURSES IN THE RED CROSS NURSING SERVICES

THE EMBLEM of the Red Cross nurse signifies service to the community. The programs that this emblem represents are a part of a broad humanitarian movement that extends from the smallest community in this country to all parts of the world.

The American National Red Cross plays an important part in the provision for total health services within a community by extending and supplementing the programs of official and other community health agencies. To extend these vital services the Red Cross must rely on public-spirited and conscientious citizens who are willing and able to participate in its many activities.

Because of her specialized skills and experience, the nurse has an opportunity to make a unique contribution. The Red Cross nurse participates in and helps to extend the varied programs of the Nursing Services—home nursing instruction, training of nurse's aides, disaster nursing, the National Blood Program, and other services. These programs not only benefit residents of the community as a whole but also help to strengthen the bond between volunteer and paid nursing groups and to develop a greater public understanding of professional nursing and its problems.

In return, the stimulation of association with many interested, energetic, and enthusiastic volunteers—both lay and professional—enriches the nurse's experience beyond tangible measurement.

Service through the Red Cross represents a challenge to all who wish to contribute to the betterment of the community—the nation—and the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Although it is necessary to employ a number of nurses for key positions at Red Cross national and area headquarters as well as in chapters, the majority of nurses participating in chapter nursing programs are volunteers who wish to keep their skills active and to make a contribution to their community through the American Red Cross.

Chapters need nurses to:

Teach home nursing.
Teach volunteer nurse's aides.
Do disaster nursing.
Work in the blood program.
Serve on nursing committees.
Interpret the basic philosophy of the American Red Cross to student and nursing groups.

Become an enrolled Red Cross nurse or make your enrollment active through service to your community "beyond the line of duty."

DISASTER NURSES

Who are they?

Nurses who have indicated their willingness to serve when needed for emergency disaster service. Assignments may vary from a few days to weeks or months, according to the nature and severity of the disaster. Service may be on a volunteer or a paid basis. Frequently nurses are loaned by the agency with which they are regularly employed.

Nurses with extensive disaster experience plus demonstrated qualities of leadership are designated as special disaster reserve nurses to serve in a supervisory capacity wherever assigned.

Nurses may earn enrollment in the Red Cross Nursing Services through this type of community service.

What do they do?

Give nursing care to victims of all kinds of disasters—fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, train wreck, or epidemic. They serve in refugee shelters, emergency medical stations, regular and emergency hospitals, blood centers, or as visiting nurses in the homes of disaster victims; help in making preliminary surveys to determine nursing needs in stricken areas; and assist case workers in planning for the future care of the disaster injured.

What are the qualifications?

Graduation from a state-accredited school of nursing.

Current registration in some state.

Special knowledge of communicable disease control is desirable.

Preparation for and experience in general public health nursing is desirable.

Orientation to the American Red Cross disaster program is desirable.

NURSE'S AIDE INSTRUCTORS

Who are they?

Nurses who are authorized by the American National Red Cross through the area nursing services to give training courses to volunteer nurse's aides on either a volunteer or paid basis.

What and where do they teach?

Give basic instruction, including the practice of skills in classes and in conjunction with hospital and public health staff; arrange for orientation to the hospital or public health agency; and supervise experience within a hospital or public health agency.

Classes are usually taught in the Red Cross chapter house, and additional supervised practice is provided in local hospitals or health agencies.

What are the qualifications?

Graduation from a state-accredited school of nursing.

Current registration in some state and compliance with the law of the state in which employed.

College work with some experience in teaching is desirable.

Initiative and some executive ability to enable her to integrate the training requirements with the plans of cooperating agencies.

HOME NURSING INSTRUCTORS AND SUPERVISORS

Who are they?

Nurses who are authorized by the area director of Nursing Services to teach classes in Red Cross Home Nursing on either a volunteer or paid basis. Nurse instructors with special training may be authorized as home nursing supervisors.

Non-nurses may also be authorized to teach certain Red Cross courses. They receive training and supervision by Red Cross-authorized nurse training supervisors.

Where do they teach?

In chapter houses, community centers, schools, colleges, industrial plants, homes—wherever a classroom can be set up with adequate and appropriate equipment.

What do they teach?

How to recognize common symptoms of illnesses and how to report them to the doctor; how to give simple nursing care to the ill, helpless, and aging members of the family in their own homes under a doctor's direction; how to care for the mother and baby; how to recognize the need for professional care in serious illnesses.

What are the qualifications?

Graduation from a state-accredited school of nursing.

College work is desirable.

Current registration in some state and compliance with the law of the state in which employed.

Training and experience in public health nursing or teaching desirable for instructors—required for supervisors.

Red Cross Home Nursing training course.

Experience in working with community groups and organizations is desirable.

BLOOD PROGRAM NURSES

Who are they?

Nurses assigned to National Blood Program regional centers and mobile units—chief, deputy chief, and staff nurses. In addition to such nurses regularly employed, more and more opportunities for service in the center and mobile unit operations of the program are being offered to volunteer registered professional nurses.

What do they do?

Under the direction of the medical director, they are responsible for the care and protection of donors; medical histories, including blood pressure reading and hemoglobin estimation tests; blood withdrawal or venipuncture; sterile techniques and central supply room activities; training and supervision of volunteers assigned to technical or semitechnical duties; health education or teaching; public relations; and other professional and administrative activities.

What are the qualifications?

Graduation from a state-accredited school of nursing.

Current registration in some state and compliance with the law of the state in which employed.

Chief Nurse

At least 2 years of college work or the equivalent; bachelor's degree desirable.

Completion of course in public health nursing, nursing administration, and/or education or the equivalent.

Experience in general nursing situations, including at least 2 years in a supervisory or administrative capacity.

Experience in blood bank, clinic, or operating room is desirable.

Deputy Chief Nurse

At least 2 years of college work or the equivalent.

Training or experience in public health nursing is desirable.

Experience in general nursing situations, including at least 1 year in a supervisory or administrative capacity.

Experience in blood bank, clinic, or operating room is desirable.

Staff Nurse

Training or experience in public health nursing is desirable.

At least 1 year of experience in general nursing situations.

Experience in blood bank, clinic, or operating room is desirable.

DIRECTORS OF NURSING SERVICES

(Chapter staff positions)

Who are they?

Nurses with wide experience who are responsible for promoting and coordinating all nursing activities in local chapters.

What do they do?

Direct the professional activities of all chapter nursing personnel except in the blood centers; interpret Red Cross nursing programs to chapter and community; develop good working relationships with other community health agencies; and stimulate development of nursing programs in accordance with the objectives and standards of the American National Red Cross.

What are the qualifications?

Graduation from a state-accredited school of nursing.

Bachelor's degree.

Current registration in some state and compliance with the law of the state in which employed.

Special preparation and experience in public health nursing or in teaching.

Broad understanding of the fields of nursing, of professional organizations, and of community health agencies.

NURSING FIELD INSTRUCTORS

(Area staff positions)

Who are they?

Specially prepared nurses who are assigned to teach home nursing on an itinerant basis in communities where local qualified instructors are not available, and to train instructors who can continue to teach in the community.

What do they do?

Carry out intensive teaching programs of from 1 to 3 months in small communities, and/or instructor training courses where needed. Under guidance of the nursing field representative they assist the chapter nursing services committee by interpreting their functions and aiding them in developing good working relationships with other agencies.

What are the qualifications?

Graduation from a state-accredited school of nursing.

College work is desirable.

Current registration in some state.

Experience in public health or teaching is desirable.

Red Cross Home Nursing training course and preparation as training supervisors if they are to conduct instructor training courses.

Resourcefulness in adjusting to rural communities.

NURSING FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

(Area staff positions)

Who are they?

Nurses with varied experience and mature judgment who are assigned a territory to cover for the development and supervision of all nursing programs under the guidance of the area director of Nursing Service.

What do they do?

Supervise all nursing activities including home nursing instruction, training courses for nurse's aides, nursing in disaster preparedness and relief, public health nursing, and the enrollment of nurses in Red Cross Nursing Services. They also conduct instructor's training courses and serve as liaison representatives between the Red Cross and other organizations with similar interests and programs.

What are the qualifications?

Graduation from a state-accredited school of nursing.

Current registration in some state and compliance with the law of the state in which employed.

A bachelor's degree in public health nursing or nursing education and, included or in addition, 1 academic year's study in a public health nursing program meeting requirements of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

At least 1 year of supervised experience in a generalized public health nursing program including bedside care, and 2 years of supervisory or administrative experience in public health nursing on a community or state-wide basis.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Home Nursing training courses have been developed to enable the home nursing instructor to understand and to apply well-known teaching and nursing principles safely, effectively, and quickly. These may be given either in a Red Cross chapter or in a university (for credit) working in cooperation with the chapter.

Disaster Preparedness Conferences acquaint nurses with a disaster operation.

Blood Program Orientation includes instruction in nursing skills involved in program. Following the basic course, nurses are assigned to selected regional centers for in-service technical training and experience.

Orientation for nurses who join the area and national staffs.

Regional Conferences for chapter, area, and national staffs.

UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The nurse who serves on the staff of the American Red Cross Nursing Services gains personal satisfaction as well as valuable professional experience through the unusual opportunities to:

Participate in the development of nursing service in communities large and small, rural and urban.

Assist in providing community leadership for health programs.

Help in developing a group of competent, readily mobilized volunteers to meet emergency needs as well as ever-present daily needs.

Interpret nursing to the general public.

Keep in touch with national, state, and local nursing organizations and health agencies.

Serve as part of the world-wide humanitarian organization and assist in acquainting nurses from Red Cross societies of other countries with nursing programs in this country.

Address of National Headquarters and Addresses and Jurisdictions of Area Offices

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—*17th and D Streets, N. W., Washington 13, D. C.*

EASTERN AREA—*615 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia:* Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.

SOUTHEASTERN AREA—*230 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta 3, Georgia:* Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee.

MIDWESTERN AREA—*1709 Washington Avenue, St. Louis 3, Missouri:* Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PACIFIC AREA—*1550 Sutter St., San Francisco 1, California:* Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington.

INSULAR CHAPTERS—*17th & D Streets, N. W., Washington 13, D. C.:* Canal Zone, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Virgin Islands.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS—*17th & D Streets, N. W., Washington 13, D. C.*